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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,445	07/03/2003	Thomas E. Nahill	18161 USA	6518
21127	7590	03/30/2006	EXAMINER	
KUDIRKA & JOBSE, LLP			MIGGINS, MICHAEL C	
ONE STATE STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 800			1772	
BOSTON, MA 02109				

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/613,445	NAHILL ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Michael C. Miggins	1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 3-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 4-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 3-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All
  - b) Some \*
  - c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.   |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/9/06 has been entered.

## REJECTIONS WITHDRAWN

2. All rejections of claims 6-10 have been withdrawn.

## REJECTIONS REPEATED

3. The 103(a) and double patenting rejections of claims 3-5 only set forth in the final rejection of 1/11/05, pages 3-6, paragraphs 6-10 are repeated for the reasons of record. Applicant has added the limitations "to form an expanded and crystallized neck" and "expanded and crystallized" to claim 3 which is provided upon the combined teachings of Valyi and Tsukada since Valyi discloses an expanded neck and Tsukada discloses a crystallized neck.

## NEW REJECTIONS

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

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4, Claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valyi (US 5884786) in view of Tsukada (US 4591060).

Valyi discloses an expanded neck which is at least partially molecularly oriented, wherein said neck is at least partially of a crystallizable polymer which is of polyester or PET, wherein said finish ring has one or more external threads or thread segments, wherein said finish is on an injection molded or compression molded preform, or plastic construction (column 3, line 66 through column 4, line 34) (applies to instant claims 11, 13-18).

Tsukada discloses a neck which is at least partially molecularly oriented, wherein said neck is at least partially of a crystallizable polymer (column 4, lines 31-64) (11-12 and 19-20).

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 6-10 and 21-50 are allowed. The prior art fails to teach or suggest all the method steps and order of the steps currently claimed in claims 6 and 9-10, the order of the method steps is not obvious because any change in the order of the steps will result in different properties for the preform or container.

#### **ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS**

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6. Applicant's arguments filed 1/9/06 have been carefully considered but are deemed unpersuasive. Applicant's arguments with regard to claims 6-10 and 21-50 are persuasive.

Applicant has argued that neither Valyi and Tsukada disclose the limitations "to form an expanded and crystallized neck" and "expanded and crystallized". However, said limitations are provided upon the combined teachings of Valyi and Tsukada since Valyi discloses an expanded neck and Tsukada discloses a crystallized neck.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Miggins whose telephone number is 571-272-1494. The examiner can normally be reached on 1:00-10:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Y. Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael C. Miggins  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1772



MCM  
March 20, 2006